

CONFIDENTIAL

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1 April 1955

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION**SUBJECT: NIS versus HRAF**

1. After discussion of SSRG procedures with Wetter today, he advised me on a "confidential" basis that Cairns and Assistant Secretary Quarles were very upset with regard to the apparent duplication between NIS and HRAF. After a friendly give and take on which came first, the chicken or the egg, Wetter indicated that Cairns wanted to bring the NIS-HRAF subject up in the SSRG group with the idea in mind of achieving a "marriage" of the two programs. Wetter advised me that he opposed this proposal on the basis that there was nothing tangible to talk about--either completed NIS sections based on the new NIS revision or finished WAHRAF country handbooks. He felt that at a later date when finished products were available from WAHRAF that there may be some merit in discussing a split in the work load between NIS and WAHRAF.

2. Unable to avoid a fruitless discussion and preferring not to appear uncooperative, I told Wetter my best personal guess was that nothing would be achieved by bringing the NIS-HRAF "marriage" proposal up in the SSRG at this time and, with respect to any later presentation of such a proposal, it would seem to me that there would be no additional reasons to make any split between NIS and HRAF.

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